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The Clement family made the trek in from Minden to the newly opened A&W on Hops Drive in Haliburton this past weekend. The fast food chain hosted a soft launch opening on Saturday, Jan. 18, and was met with a wealth of community support. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

A&W opens its doors in Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's the moment we've all been waiting for.

The long-discussed A&W Restaurant has opened its doors at 10 Hops Drive in Haliburton. With rumours circulating around town leading up to the opening, the manager of the facility, Sohail Khoja, was thrilled to officially welcome guests on Saturday, Jan. 18.

"We wanted to do sort of a soft launch over the weekend," he laughed. "Just to make sure everything was working and we were ready to go. But it didn't end up being so soft. Everyone was here."

Khoja shared that hundreds of locals visited over the first weekend in business; many travelling from various locations across the county to check out the restaurant. "The love and support we have been receiving so far is overwhelming," he beamed.

A&W Canada was originally a branch

see REVIEWS page 2

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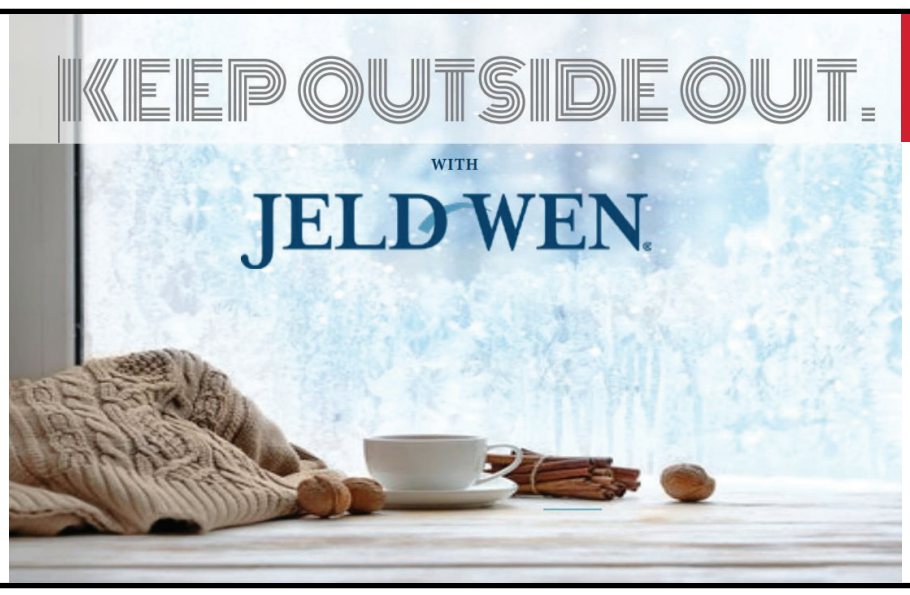

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Reviews positive for Haliburton A&W

from page 1

of the A&W Restaurants, based out of the United States. The first Canadian joint was opened up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1956, with hundreds of locations across the country following suit in the years to follow.

By 1972, the Canadian operations were sold to Unilever, officially severing their link to the original American brand. In 1995, senior management purchased the chain from Unilever, and it is still privately owned, basing operations out of Vancouver, British Columbia.

There are 1,054 A&W locations across Canada, with 1,044 owned and operated by franchisees, and the remainder are owned and operated by A&W Food Services.

The new Haliburton location falls into the former category.

A&W marketing takes a keen interest in retro-branding, specifically targeting the Baby Boomer generation with its colouring, fonts, interior decor, and available menu items.

Khoja shared that construction for the specific site really started moving ahead in August of this past year, after a series of landlord changes and some details that needed to be finalized. Once they were given the green light, though, the process was fairly smooth sailing leading up to the opening weekend.

Within 24-hours of opening their doors, the Haliburton location of the fast food joint started to see the reviews rolling in. "Finally in Haliburton!" one reads. "Even with the opening day rush the service was fast and friendly, and the food was excellent," reads another. "Some of the best customer service I've ever experienced at a fast food restaurant. Happy to have some more food options in Haliburton!"

The restaurant plans on starting their days at 5:30 a.m. to accommodate the early morning rush, and staying open most days until 10 p.m., with the exception of Fridays and Saturdays, where they will not close until 11 p.m.

"We just loved seeing everyone come in," said Khoja, "the smiles and the love we got on our opening weekend was just so great."

A&W opened this past weekend, and was met with a flurry of business. The restaurant intends to open early in the day and stay open late into the evening. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Leave our piece of Lewis Road alone, says residents

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Some property owners believe a specific bit of Lewis Road in Highlands East should remain unpaved.

Doran and Laurie Hart have been living in Highlands East on Lewis Road year-round since 2023. Previous to that, they summered at the property they've owned since 2013.

"We have a deep love for this area of the province so much that we decided to sell our home in the city to move up here full-time 18 months ago," Doran said.

He spoke to council during its Jan. 14 meeting about whether a chip and tar surface should be considered for the road and which residents should have a say in the matter.

He said the year-round maintenance of Lewis Road is on par or maybe better than what he saw living in Kitchener-Waterloo.

"I suspect this is partly why I see no need for different road surface alternatives to those that have been already in use for decades on our little road," Doran said.

The majority of Lewis Road property owners want to ensure there is transparency and objectivity around a recent request by a handful of property owners to pave the road.

"From what I understand, the process to chip and tar was not instigated by the municipality, nor should it reflect negatively on the municipality on whether the process was sufficiently open for all to discuss sufficiently," he said.

The effort of a small group of people to pave the thoroughfare was brought to light in August. Doran said a majority of residents who attended the Paudash Shores Cottagers Association (PSCA) meeting were in the dark about the paving effort.

An online petition was launched, he said, but it lacked discussion of road surface alternatives. That petition was also opened to Heather Drive residents. That's a private road, he said.

It was also opened to residents of Colborne Creek Road, Hammersmith Lane, and Sandy's Lane.

"Although residents on these other tributary roads utilize Lewis Road to get to their property, there have been many concerns as to whether they should have an equal say on a road that has no impact in front of their residence," Doran said.

People in favour of paving believe the road would be more safe, property values would increase, and the municipality's maintenance costs would decrease.

Doran said the majority of the residents on the 870 meters of Lewis Road from Colborne Creek to the boat launch do not want that section paved.

It is one of the narrowest sections of land with foliage at or near roadside in substantial portions. This section of the road is the only section with properties on both sides of the road, which is a very unique differential versus the rest of Lewis Road.

This section of the road is unique in that it is on a narrow spit of land with water close on both sides, unlike any other section. As a result, many residential buildings are closer to the road than those in other sections.

A road's hard surface often yields speeding motorists. The section in question is hilly with several hidden driveways.

"This, coupled with the properties being close to the road, presents safety risks for children, pets, pedestrians, and cyclists," he said.

Further, there are only eight of 20,000 Haliburton County wetlands designated to be provincially significant wetlands. Paudash Lake Central Complex Wetland runs adjacent to the road and is one of those eight.

"This is a significant uniqueness versus all other sections of Lewis Road that demands different considerations," he said. "Numerous studies indicate that wildlife mortality is shown to increase with the paving of roads."

Paving will add to every township resident's tax burden. Besides, he said, the majority of those who wish to have the road paved do not live in the last section of Lewis Road.

"Therefore, it is fair to say that those individuals would not be negatively impacted if the last section between Colborne Creek and the boat launch were left as is," Doran said.

Fine folk

Devin Wilson performed at Haliburton County Folk Society's Open Stage on Jan. 11 at the Haliburton Legion. The Folk Society offers open stage opportunities on a regular basis, and can be found at www.haliburtonfolk.com. The next open stage is slated for Feb. 8, once again at the Haliburton Legion. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Coalition calls for social assistance money increase

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) recent homelessness report has drawn considerable concern from a group lobbying to improve social assistance.

The Raise The Rates Coalition said in a press release that the AMO report is a cause for great concern. In particular, the report fails to identify poverty-level social assistance rates as a primary driver of the province's homelessness crisis.

Ron Anicich, the coalition's co-chairperson, said that, while the association identifies the growing scale of homelessness in Ontario, proposed solutions ignore social assistance rates that condemn recipients to absolute poverty as an immediate cause of homelessness.

"No amount of new housing alone will solve homelessness when Ontario Works recipients are expected to survive on $733 per month in a province where even a bachelor apartment costs triple that amount," Anicich said.

The Raise The Rates Coalition is a collective lobbying to have the level of social assistance funding compatible with the current economy.

The coalition notes that while AMO calls for $13 billion in new housing investments, the association remains silent on the need to raise social assistance rates that have lost more than 40 per cent of their purchasing power since the former premier Mike Harris-era cuts of the 1990s.

The Ontario Disability Support Program rate of $1,368 per month and Ontario Works rate of $733 leave recipients with no choice but homelessness or deep housing insecurity, Anicich said.

"AMO's reluctance to address social assistance rates as part of the scope of this research reflects a troubling disconnect from the reality faced by hundreds of thousands of Ontarians," he said.

"Municipal service managers across Ontario know that their shelters are filled with people receiving social assistance. They know their housing waiting lists are dominated by social assistance recipients."

The AMO report and the Raise The Rates Coalition's response to it are part of lobby effort to improve social assistance measures that has been gaining momentum.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Public Health Unit, which recently officially merged with the Peterborough Public Health Unit, decided in September 2024 to join the campaign for a guaranteed basic income for everybody.

The campaign is an effort to have Ontario municipal and county councils get behind a proposed National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act.

The proposed legislation calls on government to "determine what constitutes a livable basic income for each region in Canada, taking into account the goods and services that are necessary to ensure that individuals can lead a dignified and healthy life, as well as the cost of those goods and services in accessible markets."

It calls for the creation of national standards for health and social supports that complement a guaranteed basic income program

For its part, the coalition asks that social assistance rates be doubled and that annual increases to address inflation be automatic. The group also believes a housing benefit should reflect actual market rents.

"Municipalities cannot solve homelessness while ignoring the poverty enforced by provincial social assistance rates," Anicich said. "AMO's voice could be powerful in demanding adequate rates. Instead, they've chosen to remain silent about this fundamental cause of the crisis they seek to address."

Have an ice day

Ice climbing conditions have reached a new level of perfection with the recent cold snap in local temperatures. At Haliburton Forest, teams of guides are able to take interested individuals out to scale the natural ice walls on the property. Visit www.haliburtonforest.com for more information. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Taking life by the skis; the story of a Doris Day

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Doris Pierson recently celebrated her 94th birthday at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride, where they gifted her a parking spot by the chalet. The seasoned skier has been hitting the slopes for the past 81 years. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

A Doris Day.

That's what the regulars at Sir Sam's call a particularly bright and sunny day on the slopes.

A desirable day for many, but for one person in particular, it's absolute paradise.

"I just love winter," said Doris Pierson, as she peels layers of snow gear off in the Sir Sam's Chalet, her white hair curling around her ski glasses. "I love the fresh air, I love everything about it."

Doris has been skiing consistently for the past 81 years. As she meandered through the chalet to join me for an interview, she stopped at nearly every table, each visiting patron beaming as she passed through.

She's a Sir Sam's legend, according to all who know her, and in return, she gives her heart and soul to the establishment. "I've skied all over the place," the Eagle Lake resident said, "but I like it here, because there's a run for everyone."

For her 85th birthday, Sir Sam's gifted her a lifetime pass to the facility. "The Bishops have always treated me well," she said, humbly. For her 94th birthday in December, Sir Sam's presented her with her own parking spot, right in front of the entrance to the chalet. "It helps to have a parking spot," she laughed. "My family says I should share!"

Doris started skiing at the age of 13. "My brother got me a set of skis to keep me out of trouble, and I think it worked," she said with a wink. She has skied all over the world; through Chile, the Andes, across North America, and all through Europe. At the age of 65, Doris was teaching skiing at Whistler Mountain, and up until recently, she taught kids how to ski at Sir Sam's, as well.

She spent her professional career working in dental reception. "When I got the job, the dentist asked me why I needed the job, I told him I needed to support my habits," she said, referring to her lifelong passion for the downhill sport.

She met her husband, Gord, on a ski hill (of course), and the couple had four children together - three daughters and one son - who they regularly brought to the slopes. "He was always game to go skiing anywhere I wanted," Doris reflected. She shared that one winter, Gord managed to ski for 100 days of the season. "I only managed to ski 80 of those days," she laughed. "Someone had to do the laundry!"

Gord passed away in 2011, and while Doris mourned the loss, she continued to explore what she and her husband had loved doing together the most; the thrill of the sport. "He'd be so happy to know I'm still skiing," she grinned.

Doris immersed herself into the culture of Sir Sam's; dedicating her free time to the slopes. "I've always got a friend somewhere around here," she said, glancing towards the bustling eatery at the chalet. "I love to see all the school buses here. These kids. That's the future of the hill."

The seasoned skier is an adamant proponent for taking lessons; for anyone interested in skiing, at any level. "That's the secret," she said. "Always take a lesson. Start at the beginning, and you'll be fine."

Doris tries to ski nearly every day, "whenever I can," she beamed. "As long as conditions are good. It has to be a Doris Day." From the four children she shared with Gord, she now has seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; all of whom are active in the ski world. This season has been particularly special, with Doris able to share the slopes with her three generations of kids at the same time.

When asked if she would ever slow down, Doris laughed. "No, not yet," she said. "I'm an oddball, I know. But you know what, I don't care!"

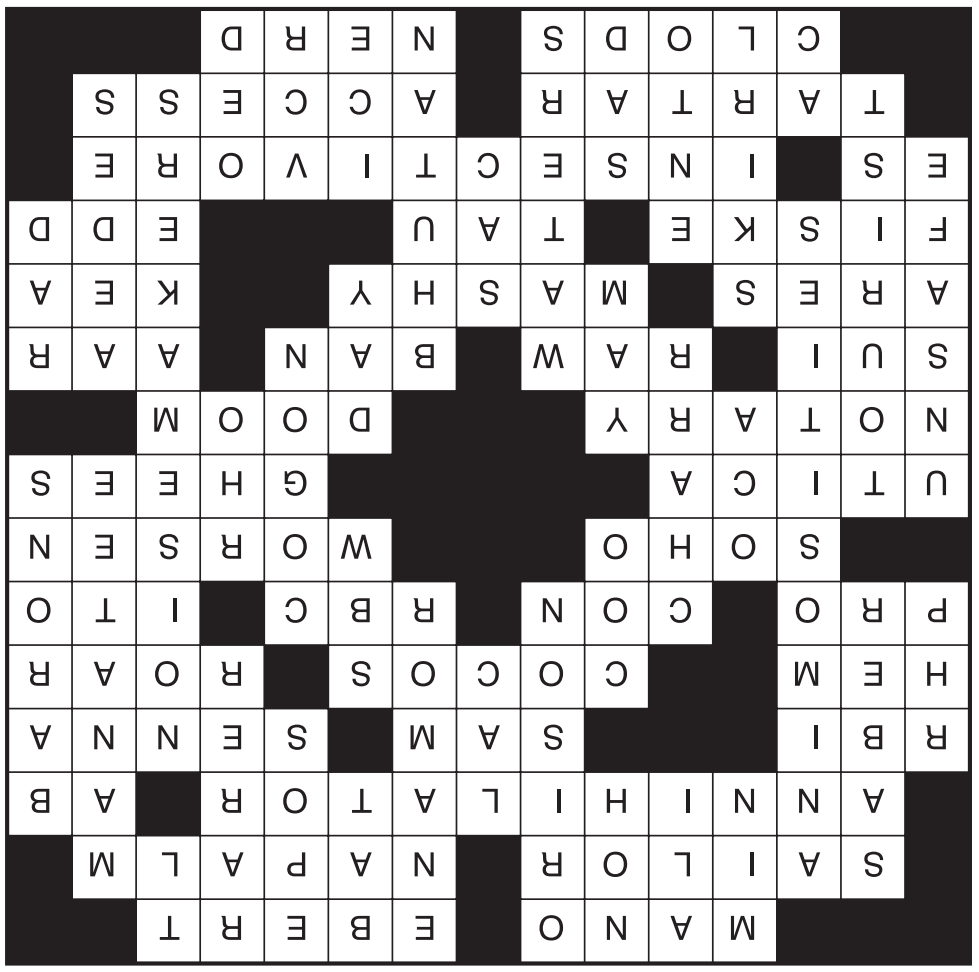
Her zest for life contagious, the interview concluded with laughs and a firm handshake, while Doris made her way back through the chalet in search of lunch, once again stopping to talk to everyone on her way.

As I left the chalet and headed towards my car, I bumped into a former colleague; foggy goggles propped on their head while they pulled their skis from the trunk of their car.

"Beautiful day!" I said.

"Yes," they replied. 'It's a Doris Day!"

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



points of view

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

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The recent cold snap has forced many outdoor winter sports to hit pause until more favourable temperatures return. Hibernation is in order for many. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Age

IT'S ONE of those things that happens to everyone.

We grow up.

I'm watching that on the faces of my own kids. My two stepdaughters, now entering their pre-teen eras, their cherubic little cheeks softening and their eyes growing wiser with the world.

My son is now nearly one-year-old. I look back at pictures from his very early days earth-side. His face more so resembling a squishy raisin than the bubbly boy he's become.

When I have a passing moment, sometimes I catch a glimpse of myself in the mirror. Crows feet where it was once smooth, laugh lines where it was once soft.

It's one of those things that happens to everyone.

We grow up.

emily stonehouse

Editorial

But this week, I was reminded that just because we naturally age, we don't need to limit ourselves. Age has a way of becoming such a black and white structure; a framework we place ourselves in; decade by decade, a new chapter defined by those who walked before us.

But it doesn't need to be so black and white.

As I spoke to 94-year-old Doris, who skies down Sir Sam's as often as she can, I was reminded that we write our own stories. And while much of life is left to the luck of the draw, many other factors are in our control.

We can choose our path.

And sometimes those choices look like educated eating habits and regular exercise.

Other times those choices look like setting boundaries and choosing happiness.

We are nothing if not layers and layers of the world around us; the emotions and reels and depth and life that we walk through each and every day; certain things landing and sticking while other things bounce off.

A common concern we hear regularly in our neck of the woods, is that we are an aging community. And this is accurate, in the sense that the vast majority of our population is comfortably over the age of 65.

But what I think we often forget, is that we are all aging. And while different demographics are prone to different needs, there are symbiotic opportunities to break down the black and white structure of aging.

It doesn't have to look one specific way. We need to shake the notion that aging means slowing down, means stopping.

Of course in some cases, it does. But that can happen at any age, at any stage, to any one. It's all in the luck of the draw.

Our aging community is not a burden on our world, it's an opportunity. We can choose our path, and what we want those stories to look like.

Because it's one of those things that happens to everyone.

We grow up.

And aren't we lucky.

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Water, water

THE FROZEN ground was bumpy, lumpy and granite-hard as George manipulated himself and his burden to the car. The large water jug sloshed precariously as he carefully lifted it onto the back seat. A north wind whipped up the snow. It circled around his legs like a restless child wanting attention.

The spring's water flow was slow today. Sometimes the liquid gushed from the embedded pipe, pouring out of the ground in a torrent of optimism that quickly filled a large water jug. But not today. As George stood waiting for the level to rise in the container, he looked around.

In front of him the land rose up into cedars that stood regal and slightly mysterious, like an Emily Carr painting. The landscape was softly rounded by a thick layer of snow and although George was five minutes from town, he could have been 500 miles and the scene would probably be unchanged.

After a repeat performance for all three jugs, George was glad to get back into his car. He would have to take it slow as he drove the few blocks to his house. An overturned water jug could make for a freezing mess, out-of-reach as he drove.

George had his own well at home but iron in the water made this spring water much more palatable. How lucky he was to have an alternate source. In many parts of the world there was no water nearby, of any kind.

When he was a younger man and only a winter weekend visitor, he used to carry river water uphill to the cottage. The smooth rock river bank would be coated with ice from the river's spray and manipulating a pail of liquid over that surface could be tricky. The first time he tried this, both he and the pail had gone flying. At the time he realized how vulnerable he was being there on his own. A broken bone would have been disastrous. It had been a good lesson about slowing down and planning ahead as he picked his uncertain journey back indoors.

Once inside the cottage he emptied the pail into a large kettle on the stove. After the water boiled for ten minutes he felt it was safe for drinking and cooking. George never realized how much he depended on having potable water on hand until then, or even any kind of water for that matter. Of course the outhouse was the only option in those days.

But despite the inconvenience and challenge of winter water collection, George didn't really mind. The process forced him to slow down and focus on simple basic necessities, because you couldn't get more basic than water. Instead of ruminating about work, family or the state of the world, bringing in water and firewood kept his days functioning in a comfortable rhythm that was simple, predictable and required him to go outdoors into the natural world. The snowy landscape with its trees edged in silver watched him pass while the river's eternal cascade over rock and ice was the perfect antidote to a modern, citified existence.

Down sharon lynch

Our road

In the summer, George moved easily between indoors and out. He could jump in his car and drive effortlessly to town or friends. Lunch might be a quick sandwich on the deck before enjoying a dip in the river or a walk to the neighbour's next door. However in the winter there were no cottage neighbours and the driving could be tricky so only undertaken when absolutely necessary.

In the winter, his weekend days had a simple, reliable rhythm. They consisted of dressing for the outdoors, collecting and carrying water, removing boots and jacket, boiling water, heating and eating food and reading. Repeat as needed.

If George was to have lived all winter at the cottage, his life would have been not unlike that of the early settlers. No running water and all that entailed would have been the norm. Compared to the modern world of technology and global warming, life had been slower and more-or-less predictable. He couldn't help but wonder if civilization had advanced or simply become faster and more complicated.

points of view

The wind beneath my wigs

steve galea

Loon Tales

THIS WEEKEND, when it was Jenn's turn to cook dinner, she decided to try a new recipe. After she plated the wonderful meal that she worked so hard on, I thought two things. One: this looks delicious. Two: I'm going to have to visit the pharmacy and buy some Gas-X.

I'm pleased to announce, I was right on both counts.

The first part was a no-brainer. Jenn cooked these beautiful cabbage rolls filled with flavourful ingredients that made for a magnificent dining experience. The second part was also predictable – cabbage. Actually, not just cabbage. In fact, almost every ingredient in that mouth-watering stuffing had, at one time or another, caused internal combustion in middle-aged and old men.

This is not as big of a trick as it sounds, however. I have discovered that, as I age, my changing body continually finds new ways to convert formerly benign food into something akin to rocket fuel. The little kid in me is thrilled.

The adult in me knows this is not something to be proud of, however. But I also can't help but think that if three men over 45 were stranded on a desert island, all we would need to do would be to construct a hot air balloon out of palm leaves and a basket out of bamboo and then we could step in and let dinner and the trade winds do the rest.

We'd be home in no time.

While this is obviously reassuring, it was not on that night. So, after dinner I drove to a local pharmacy looking for the antidote.

Here's where things get complicated.

You see, despite all evidence to the contrary, I am generally shy about these sort of things. So, when I walked into the aisle looking for Gas-X and a young woman who worked in the pharmacy asked if she could assist me, I said, "No, I'm just browsing."

(Before I go further, I should note, I am in no way affiliated with Gas-X, nor am I on their Pro-Staff team.)

But I digress. There are hundreds of products in the aisles of a pharmacy, so I was still browsing five minutes later – and, frankly, the rumblings in my lower GI tract were telling me the countdown was on.

Luckily, that's when a male pharmacist about my age stepped in and asked the same question. Here was a kindred spirit – a man that I knew would understand what I was going through, without reservation or judgment.

So, naturally, I replied, "Yes, I'd love some assistance."

Unfortunately, I blurted that answer out as the young lady who previously asked the same question, stepped around the corner.

I can't say for certain, but I believe the look she gave me said, "You #$@! chauvinist."

This left me in a position to choose between explaining my current dilemma or appearing to be a #$@! chauvinist.

Sadly, I have always held to the belief that discretion is the better part of valour (though in the 70s, I went for years thinking it was the better part of velour, which I guess it also was.)

So now, there is a young professional woman in a pharmacy somewhere in central Ontario, who probably thinks that an old guy was disrespectful of her knowledge. And I'm kind of sad that this was the message I sent.

With any luck at all, I'll need Immodium sometime soon, so I can correct that.

pic *of the* past

Wilberforce Public School senior class in late 1930s. Back row, from left, Iris Bowen, Ruth Towe, Doreen Croft, Julie Riley, Jim Miller, Keith Riley, Hugh Perry, Royce Barnes and Albert Sanderson. Front row from left, Ernie Tallman, Murray Agnew and Wilbur Sanderson. /FILE

Theft from cars on the rise in county; be sure to lock up at night

The Haliburton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is currently investigating multiple thefts from vehicles in the Township of Minden Hills.

On January 5, police received a report that suspect(s) had broken into several vehicles in the area of Highway 35 and Red Umbrella Road in Minden Hills Township. As officers continued to investigate, they learned that numerous more vehicles had been broken into sometime overnight.

Haliburton OPP is asking residents in the area of Highway 35 and Red Umbrella Road to check their security cameras for any suspicious activity and report it to police.

Vehicle owners are reminded to always lock your vehicles and close the windows. Unlocked vehicles, and vehicles with valuables visible are the first vehicles targeted. Perpetrators incur more risk of being observed, being identified and getting caught if they are forced to physically break into vehicles.

Members of the Haliburton OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8457 (TIPS) or www.khcrimestoppers.com.

Submitted

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July 2024 Year in Review

HHSS students move ahead with bright futures

Grade 12 students in red flowing gowns were the stars of the graduation ceremony, going up one by one to receive their diplomas, awards, and bursaries.

Abi Lewis was selected by her peers to give the Valedictorian address.

Lewis was female athlete of the year this year, a constant strong leader, consistently achieved honours, and will pursue teaching at Brock University this fall.

This year's graduates spent the first two years of their high school careers in a global pandemic.

Inn's demolition hampered by species at risk probe

Dysart's municipal enforcement staff is keeping a close eye on the abandoned Wigamog Inn.

Dysart's bylaw officers checked in on the property recently to ensure that the security requirements were met to allow for safe demolition of the resort buildings.

"Everything seems still to be locked up tight," said Hailey Cole, one of the township's bylaw officers. The Aurora Group, owners of the Kashaganigamog Lake inn, were given until July 2022 to board all windows and entrances as a measure to prevent trespassers and vandals.

Multiple complaints have been forwarded to town hall since 2019 regarding safety concerns about the property, one of which now includes the housing of species at risk on the property.

LCBO strikes for first time in history

The first LCBO strike in the history of Ontario has begun, marking the closures of the government-run liquor stores across the province.

LCBO stores across Ontario planned to close for at least two weeks, or until a deal is reached.

The LCBO is actively developing contingency plans to maintain services for licensed hospitality operations across Ontario.

Second World War vet dances into his 100th year

Cecil Bailey was the life of the party at his 100th birthday celebration at the Haliburton Legion. The main hall was packed with friends and family of "Cec", a beloved member of the community who served in Holland during the Second World War as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Bailey was piped in by members of the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums and the Legion Branch 129 colour guard. With Gord Kidd and Friends playing his favourite old country tunes, he danced the afternoon away.

Small-town service at the heart of Haliburton Village Pharmacy

Lauren Wilson is working hard to bring "small-town" care into the community in the form of a pharmacy. Haliburton Village Pharmacy, a Pharmasave store,opened at 25 Hops Drive in Haliburton. "The pharmacist is one of the most accessible healthcare providers, and I hope that people really feel that way in the environment I'm creating," she said.

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health for Ontario, speaks with Haliburton Highlands Health Services CT technologiests Brook Sigel and Hannah Brown during the official opening of the CT scanner in July. / FILE

Valedictorian Abi Lewis chats with principal Jennifer Mills on stage. /FILE

Highlands East deputy mayor Cec Ryall dances at Canada Day in Wilberforce. /FILE

Remembering Brent

Everybody knew his name. A politician, a friend, an ally, a son, a brother, a husband, a parent, a grandfather. Brent Devolin was a man who wore many hats, and with each one, made his mark in the community. A community where everybody knew his name.

That's why, when news spread that Brent had died after a brief battle with a terminal brain disease, the community stood still. "He was truly a Jack of all trades," his daughter, Lauren Devolin, reflected on her dad. "And he was just that guy you could always call. For anyone, he was that guy."

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Paddlers and the Friendship Force came together on Kasahagawigamog Lake behind HCDC's office to go for a paddle in a dragon boat. /FILE

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August 2024 Year in Review

Speed boat races took over the town during their annual August event on Head Lake. /FILE

The Burlesque Ball wowed crowds at the Pinestone to cap off a successful Pride Week in the Haliburton Highlands. /FILE

The warm weather of the season encouraged many to head outside for a variety of summer performances. /FILE

Artists dream of a place on Wonderland (Road)

Haliburton artists are aiming for a five-year timeframe to begin construction of a facility in Dysart. Dan Manley, president of the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation, and Beth Kipping, the foundation's vice-president, met with Dysart council to lay out plans to get property on Wonderland Road. "I think it's pretty clear what we need to do," said Mayor Murray Fearrey. "We agreed to give you the property based on the fact that you do it or you don't. If you can't then you come back to us."

Wellness Hub services become all-encompassing REFORM + RESTORE

With success comes natural evolution as individuals grow and adapt over time.

Two years ago, best friends Sarah Comer and Shay Hutchings made their lifelong dreams a reality with the purchase of a space on Industrial Park Road to carry out their health-based services. Since then, they've been offering clinical pilates and registered massage therapy and standard first aid and CPR training along with other health services.

REFORM + RESTORE is a new legal incorporation of Wellness Hub, RMT Shay Hutchings, and Reform Pilates Studio as one entity.

Unknown woman leaves money at robbed Haliburton store

Two people allegedly made off with money from the till at Handmade Heaven in Haliburton on Aug. 9. The theft happened at about 2:30 p.m. Police say it was one of those distraction thefts whereby one culprit distracts store staff as an accomplice grabs money or goods and they both skid out of the establishment. A social media post details how an anonymous lady went to the store and dropped off an envelope with "a donation" after she heard about the theft. "She wanted to remain anonymous," the owner wrote. "This little town amazes me more daily."

Addyson Parish wins gold at Track and Field Championship

Haliburton's own Addyson Parish has won gold in triple jump at the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championship this year. The championship was held in Calgary, Alberta from Aug. 9 to 11. Addyson also participated in the 4x100 metre relay and the 80 metre hurdles.

"It was wonderful. I made a bunch of new friends from across Canada," said the Hal High student.

Charity golf tournament to commemorate OPP officer

Ontario Provincial Police constable Eric Nystedt was tragically killed on duty just over 31 years ago. He was in his early 20s, the same age as many of the constables at the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment today. A charity golf tournament will be held in his name for the first time ever this September at Pinestone Resort. "The idea came from all of the young officers in the detachment. It's amazing because a lot of them weren't even born yet when he passed away, but his life clearly has an impact on all of them. They wanted to create something in his memory that would give back to the community year after year," said retired OPP officer Mike Landry and Nystedt's former partner on the road.

Midnight Madness in downtown Haliburton drew crowds to shop the local stores, and many stopped to check out the sunset on Head Lake. /FILE

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September 2024 Year in Review

County adopts clearer classification of 911 responses

The county's paramedic service is set to improve the means by which its ambulances are dispatched. Haliburton County council heard during its meeting that the Lindsay Central Ambulance Communication Centre is scheduled to implement the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) in March 2025. That system is a universal standard for emergency dispatchers taking calls in response to medical emergencies.

TLDSB starting year with phones 'off and away'

Early September means a new school year, and Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) students are starting it phone-free. The policy was created in April by the Ontario Government with an implementation date of September 2024 for each school board to enforce restrictions with a local policy. TLDSB is opting for an "off and away" rule in an attempt to avoid distraction while teaching and learning.

"TLDSB students will be turning their devices off or setting them to silent, and putting them away to limit distractions and promote healthy relationships and meaningful engagement in the classroom. This will be a new approach for many, but a practice some students are already accustomed to," said a TLDSB press release.

New accommodation built with spirit of collaboration

Lakeview Motel has officially cut the ribbon on their newest offering; a geodesic dome that hugs the hill overlooking lakes and trees, and is the first four-season accommodation of its kind in the county. Lakeview's owner, Harsha Manani believes that with the expansion of the Geo Dome on the property, it will be an additional area of interest for those visiting the county.

Koshlong Lake Bridge replacement to be re-tendered next year

It's back to the drawing board for Dysart public works staff to find options for the replacement of Koshlong Lake Bridge. Rob Camelon, public works director, said the first go-around with the tender process for the work was less than favourable.

One bid was received for the work in the amount of $5,257,475, excluding taxes. The municipality budgeted $1,100,000 for the project.

Clothing Swap offers new life for old clothes

It's time to dust off that old pair of jeans at the back of the closet, and swap them out for something even better. On Sept. 28, the municipality of Dysart et al, in partnership with Fleming's Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSA+D) hosted the first Great Haliburton Clothing Swap. "This is a brand new experience for everyone," said John Watson, the environmental manager for the municipality. "People have been getting really excited about it."

The swap aims to offer a unique and accessible shopping spree, with everyone welcome to browse for goodies.

The Haliburton Rotary Club ColourFest Pumpkin Rolling contestants roll their pumpkins down York Street at the annual autumn event, ColourFest at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. The event, which was hosted by Dysart Township and the Haliburton BIA, was held from 11 to 3 p.m. and included children's activities, live entertainment, a classic car show, face painting, horse drawn wagon rides and the Haliburton Highlands Museum Scarecrow building contest. /File

Jodi Timgren and Greg Roe perform at The Beat Goes On event put on by Aging Together as Community. /FILE

Sisters Jordyn and Kaiya make crafts at the Haliburton Highlands Museum booth at the Stories in the Park Fair. /FILE

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HSA+D introduces March Break programming for first time

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

For the first time ever, Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSA+D) is adding March Break courses to their programming.

HSA+D's summer programming has been immensely popular. Often, kids need to be wait-listed to have a chance at attending their classes, says Erin Lynch, operations and programming manager for HSA+D.

HSA+D has been making changes to its programming to offer year-round courses. With this year-round model, the college hopes to increase class attendance and community engagement.

There are four programs that are being offered this March Break:

Kids Art Camp: Wild About Clay is designed for kids aged five to nine. This program guides participants to make one-of-a-kind masterpieces with clay. Hand techniques such as pinching, coiling, and slab work will be taught. Taking inspiration from nature around us, participants will be encouraged to add natural items to the clay and create sculptures of their favourite animals while incorporating a variety of colours and textures. This program will be taught by Isabel Neveu-Geene. Participants must bring a $15 material fee, payable on their first day. (There may also be a special birthday event planned.)

Youth Art Camp: Artful Explorations is designed for youth aged 10 to 13. This program will allow youth to experiment with various art forms and tools to discover the magic and joys in creating visual art. On the last day, there will be an exhibition to see the participant's masterpieces. This program will be taught by Kelly Albin. Participants must bring a $40 material fee, payable on their first day.

Youth/Teen Quilting Basics is designed for youth aged 10 to 17. This program introduces youth to fibre arts. Techniques such as rotary cutting, precision sewing, piecing, using a design wall, and machine quilting will be introduced. A small quilt and placemat will be constructed through this program. This program will be taught by Jan Anderson. Participants must bring their own supplies and equipment.

Painting the Winter Landscape is designed for Youth and Adults aged 17 and up, with any level of skills. Martha Johnson's course fosters a welcoming environment for participants of all levels and experience. Participants must bring their own supplies.

These March Break camps are great ways for kids and their families to get out of their house and pursue something creative, says Neveu-Geene.

Compared to the programs offered during the summer, the March Break program will offer a quieter and more calm atmosphere. With the surrounding Sculpture Forest and welcoming space of HSA+D, these March Break programs offer the perfect opportunity for kids to hone their artistic ability and fuel their creativity.

"I wish that I took this course when I was a kid," said Neveu-Geene.

There are two ways for people to register. Either registering online through flemingcollege.ca/continuing-education or by calling 705-457-1680. Registration is open until it fills up.

Haliburton School of Art + Design have officially launched their March Break programming, for kids and teens to enjoy over the break from school. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Avenue,
P.O. Box 389,
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Telephone: 705.457.1740 Fax: 705.457.1964
Email: info@dysartetal.ca Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: January 28, 2025

TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:

The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: Axamit
Location: 3483 Glamorgan Road
Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 1 and 2 in front of Lot 24, Geographic Township of Dysart, defined as Part 1 on Registered Plan 19R-11048 prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated December 16, 2024.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 21st day of January 2025.

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Land Information

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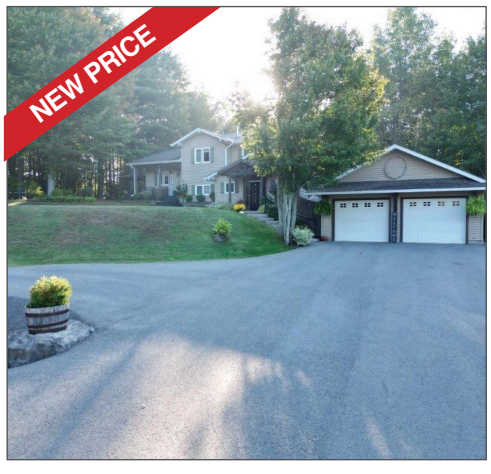

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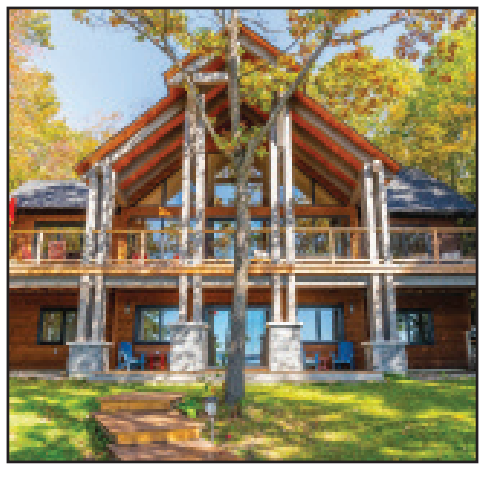

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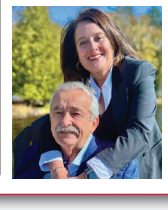

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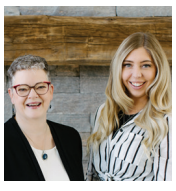

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For the love of music: HSF's fundraiser belts it out

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Love is in the air.

Or wait, is that just the smell of butter tarts?

Could be both! The Highlands Summer Festival (HSF) will be hosting their second annual fundraiser on Feb. 14 this year at the Haliburton Legion. The theme is "Loving 25 Years", in honour of the festival celebrating their silver anniversary in 2025.

Last year, the organization hosted the Flannel Frolic to raise funds for their coming season. "It was a tricky one to say fast," laughed Sue Vorvis, HSF board member, "but it was a lot of fun, and a good way to raise money."

The sold-out event last year featured live music, a silent auction, and 50/50 draws, and while the mad about plaid evening was fun, the board wanted to change direction slightly this year, in an attempt to pay homage to the festival's many shows over the years.

"We will be showcasing a Cabaret," said Vorvis, "Ten people getting together, all former cast members, and singing songs from various musicals." There will be something for everyone, with tunes from a wide variety of popular shows, before ending the evening ensemble with a piece from *Urinetown: the Musical,* which is this year's feature musical put on by HSF. "That part of a bit of a sneak peak for the season ahead," said Vorvis.

Following the Cabaret, the floor will open up to karaoke for all. "That part is open to everyone," said Vorvis. "It'll just be a casual, fun night of music."

The Valentine's eve will also include a toonie auction, a silent auction, 50/50 draws, and a selection of sweet treats, including brownies and butter tarts. "There's something about this town and their love for butter tarts," Vorvis mused warmly. The Legion will have their bar open and available for attendees.

The fundraiser is key for helping the HSF try to keep tickets accessible for as many people as possible. "We are making an effort to keep ticket prices down," said Vorvis, "and this helps do that. We want to bring this community a really spectacular season this year."

For the full lineup of shows this year, or to purchase tickets for this year's upcoming fundraiser, visit www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

Bringing the year into focus

The only conclusion one can draw after attending the AGM of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands (ACHH) is that this small organization has a big impact on the local community.

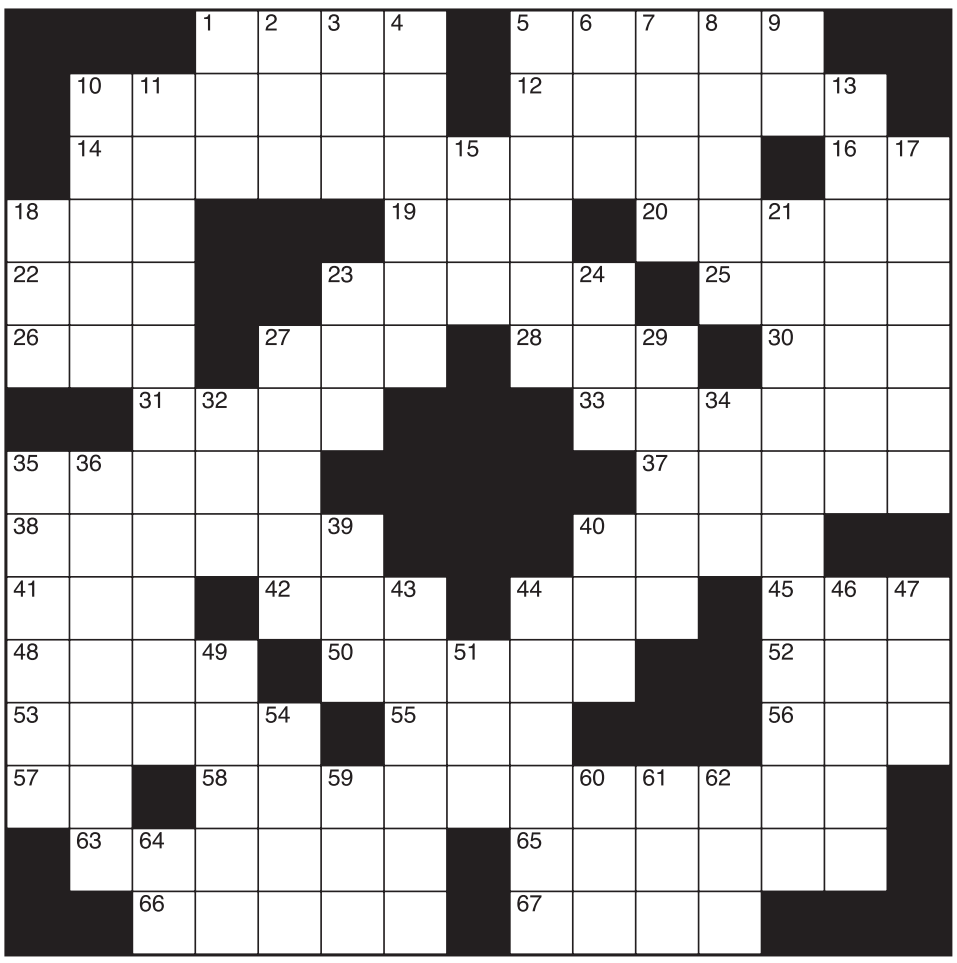
Jim Blake, curator Haliburton Sculpture Forest, states: "What a great meeting! I knew about most of the things that were presented at the AGM but it was impressive to hear the depth and breadth of the programs, planning and activities when they were summarized in one meeting."

The list of accomplishments in the year included: helping Razzamataz to bring the inspirational French Canadian break-dancing crew Bboyizm to the county, resulting in a fun experience for the participants who spun, dipped and rapped to the music along with the performers, employing local potter April Gates to engage youth in 15 hours of pottery instruction at no cost to the participants, in partnership with the Haliburton Youth Hub negotiating with local venues to display the work of ACHH members, giving the artists exposure and the public an enriched experience, bringing internationally renowned author, Linwood Barclay, to share his books and experiences at Bookapalooza, an annual community event that also provides local and area authors with exposure and allows our community to interact with authors and purchase their works, marketing the work of ACHH members through a redesigned website and annual Arts Directory, planning and running round table gatherings for members and the public who are interested in the visual, literary and performing arts, completing a Strategic Plan in 2024 to drive our goals and focus on a successful future, and reaching out to the community through surveys and a fun Arty Party to get input to what members and the public are wanting ACHH to achieve.

ACHH acknowledges the funding support of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), HCDC, Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association Art on the Dock, Parker Pad and Printing, and the Dominion Hotel as being instrumental in accomplishing these projects. There are also many smaller donors and many volunteers whose support is instrumental and appreciated.

The ACHH is a catalyst for the arts and artists of all genres in Haliburton County. As the OAC continues to reduce operating grants, ACHH is focusing on other sources of revenue to bring art to life in the Haliburton Highlands. Through a local initiatives grant from the Haliburton County Development Corporation, ACHH is formulating a fundraising plan. One facet of this plan is to increase the membership by offering value to our membership and the community at large and garnering support from the public through the purchase of supporting memberships and donations. To learn more or to join you are encouraged to visit www.haliburtonarts.on.ca.

Submitted



CLUES ACROSS
1. Hand (Spanish)
5. Siskel and __, critics
10. Seaman
12. Chemical weapon
14. One who eliminates
16. They precede C
18. Baseball stat
19. Americans' "uncle"
20. Cassia tree
22. Surround
23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
25. A sudden very loud sound
26. Affirmative
27. Disadvantage
28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
30. OJ trial judge
31. New York art district
33. Become more bleak
35. Upstate NY city
37. Clarified butters
38. One who witnesses
40. Condemn
41. __ juris
42. Natural
44. Prohibit
45. Swiss river
48. Greek war god
50. 5 iron
52. New Zealand mountain parrot
53. Scandinavian surname
55. Follows sigma
56. Doctor of Education
57. Spanish be
58. One that feeds on bugs
63. Tooth issue
65. Get into
66. Lumps of clay
67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN
1. Variety of Chinese
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Japanese classical theater
4. Prayer
5. Inspire with love
6. BallplayersÕ accessory
7. Retailer payment system
8. More raw
9. Atomic #81
10. Fencing sword
11. Hostilities
13. Sea dweller
15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
17. Businessmen
18. Rest here please (abbr.)
21. Loud devices
23. Make a soft murmuring sound
24. One point west of due south
27. Trout
29. Type of grass
32. South American plant
34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
35. Not secure
36. Traveler
39. Sweet potato
40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
43. Some are choppy
44. Asian country
46. Genus of mosquitoes
47. Cool!
49. Shrill, wailing sound
51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
54. Within
59. Unhappy
60. Decorate a cake with frosting
61. Videocassette recorder
62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
64. It cools a home

Answers on page 5

Since 1882.

When we started in Britain, you were still using wooden pucks. 140 years later, let's break the ice.

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

MILNE, Shirley Isabell (nee McLean)

Passed away on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at the Haliburton Hospital at the age of 90.

Predeceased by her husband Reginald H. Milne (1983) and her companion Ian Comrie (2024). Loving mother of Susan Kelsey (Bob) and Darren Milne (Karen). Gramma to Christine Kelsey (Trevor), Robyn Kelsey and Emily Milne (Alex).

She is survived by her sisters Joyce Woodruff, Betty Ablett and Susan McKinnon and predeceased by her siblings Geraldine Palmer, Jacqueline Milne and Ian McLean. She will be greatly missed by her many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Gardens of Haliburton for the care and compassion that was provided to Shirley while she resided there.

A Celebration of Life was held at Taylor Funeral Home, 524 Davis Drive Newmarket, on Monday, January 20, 2025 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society. Online condolences may be shared at www.taylorfh.ca.

John Allen Middleton

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of John Allen Middleton, who left this world peacefully on January 8, 2025, at the age of 81 at his home on Little Kennisis Lake, Haliburton. Born in Toronto, John was the cherished son of the late Victor and Jean Middleton. From an early age, he was surrounded by the values that would define his life: an unwavering love for family, a genuine kindness for others, and a profound understanding of what it means to truly give of oneself.

John's life was one of quiet strength and purposeful action with understated humour. His passions reached far beyond his professional life. Haliburton became the canvas for his love of the arts, where he cultivated a deep connection to pottery that spanned decades, creating beauty with his hands and sharing his creations with the community he adored. His love of orchids is evident in the numerous plants he continues to baby. Service to others was at the heart of who John was. Whether volunteering on the Fleming College board, supporting the Fleming School of the Arts, contributing to the Kennisis Lake Roads Committee, or lending his time and energy to service work in Guatemala, John's life was a testament to the impact of selflessness and care.

Above all, John was a family man. His life's legacy is one of love, kindness, and the deep connections he built with those around him. He leaves behind his devoted wife, Joan Middleton, whose partnership was a cornerstone of his life for 53 years. He will be forever loved and remembered by his daughter, Jean-Anne (Mike), and his treasured grandchildren Joseph and Riley. John was preceded in death by his beloved son Jeremy Middleton (2024) and grandfather to his girls Brianna Clark (Johnny Clark, great grandchild Jeremiah) and Meghan Chatterton. Cherished brother of Don (Maureen), sister-in-law Catherine (John), and brother-in-law Bill (Debbie). He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, their children, and dear friends who were touched by his warmth and generosity.

John attended Leaside High School and Ryerson Polytechnical University before joining IBM where he devoted 30 years followed by 10 years at Airmiles. Embodying dedication and diligence and many long-term friends. His many interests included pottery, orchids, gardening, and great travel adventures with his friends and his dogs who are missing him terribly. John will be deeply missed, but his legacy of compassion, service, and unwavering love will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. He was a guiding light, and his memory will remain a beacon of inspiration for years to come.

Remembrance Gathering

A celebration of life and remembrance gathering will be held on February 1 from 1-3 at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM**, 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, Ontario. Family and friends are warmly invited to come together to share memories and reflect on a life so beautifully lived. As an expression of sympathy, the family kindly requests donations be made to SIRCH, El Amor De Patricia Children's Home - Guatemala, or One Way Community - Guatemala. All of which were charities close to John's heart. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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In Loving Memory of
Mervyn "Merv" Rivers

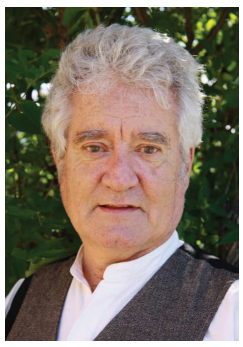
Passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at the age of 82.

Beloved husband of the late Rhonda (2012) (nee Gilbert). Dear father of Wayne Rivers, Pamela Rivers (Neil Cope) and Michelle Cooper (Robert Wallis). Loving pop to Kevin Cooper (Jossolyn Allison) Craig Cooper (Megan MacDuff), Randi Winn (Kenton Winn) and great pop to Addy and Deakin. Predeceased by his parents Alice and Wesley. Dear brother of Ron (deceased), Jean, Lorrie (Burt), Ray (Adele), Wendy (Neil) and Roy (Celine). Fondly remembered by many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Friends are invited to join the family at the Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery for a Graveside Committal and Interment Service at a date to be announced.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion Br. 129 Poppy Fund would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



Launcelot "Guy" Pritchard

Launcelot "Guy" Pritchard, in the twilight of his 70th year, took his graceful departure on January 13, 2025. Guy shall forever be cherished for his delightful wit and extraordinary tenor voice.
A born entertainer and gifted songwriter, Guy graced local stages, portraying memorable characters such as the Admiral in HMS Pinafore, and shared his talents with Serendipity and at Open Stages. Throughout his illustrious 27-year teaching career and as a cross-country ski coach, he enriched the lives of many.

His absence will be profoundly felt by his beloved wife Laurel, step-daughter April (David), her daughter Ashley (Lewis), great-grandson Rhett, sister Pamela, and brother Geoff (Mychelle). The music community mourns the loss of a true luminary.

Guy's legacy will continue to inspire those who had the privilege to know him and those who will come to learn of his remarkable contributions. As we remember him, let us celebrate the joy and harmony he brought into our lives, and may his spirit forever resonate in the music he loved so dearly.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Guy's life will be held on Thursday, January 23rd, 2025 from 4 - 6 in **THE COMMUNITY ROOM** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario. For those who have stories and memories to share, we invite you to do so at 5:00 pm for our time of remembrance. As an expression of sympathy, please consider making a donation to the Kidney Foundation, Hospice Peterborough, or the HHHS Foundation in Guy's honour. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 705-457-9209.

Community Funeral Home

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In Loving Memory of
Inge March

June 6, 1936 - January 10, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Inge March who left us on January 10th, 2025 at the age of 88. Inge lived a long and beautiful life, full of love, laughter and so many good memories. She always enjoyed spending time with her family at the lake, taking care of her gardens and animals, travelling, and working on countless artistic projects.

Inge will be deeply missed by her husband of 60 years, Jack, her son John, daughter Tara, son-in-law Peter, her grandchildren Madeline and Evan, as well as many other family members and friends.

The family would like to offer their sincerest thanks to the staff at Hyland Crest for the amazing care that they provided for Inge. As per Inge's request, no funeral will be held at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to The Alzheimer's Society or a charity of your choice.

You will forever be in our thoughts and memories.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of
Barbara Ann Barker (nee Bird)

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at the age of 62.

Beloved wife of Stephen Barker, dear mother of Curtis and Megan, Gavin and Sammie, loving nana of Sienna and Terra. Dear daughter of Beau and his wife Verna and predeceased by her mom Marylou, sister of Penny (Al Northey), Jim (Heather), Randy (Angie). Daughter-in-law of Ann and the late Don Barker, sister-in-law of David and Leeanna. Fondly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, family and friends. Barbara worked for the LCBO for 27 years in Minden, Haliburton and Wilberforce.

Barbara's wish was for cremation and no services.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation for the Cancer Clinic would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS
Upcoming meetings answer parents' questions about French Immersion

DOOR TO THE UNIVERSE
Chamber of Commerce moves ahead with creating Haliburton Internet portal

LIFE IN THE ICE HOUSE
Five Highlands teens prepare to camp outside for Duke of Edinburgh award

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
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Tuesday, January 23, 2001
Vol. 117 No. 41
$1 including GST

ERIK MARTENSON/Echo

Millie Payne joins her husband, drummer John Payne, in a dance at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday night in honour of Scottish poet Robbie Burns' birthday. For more coverage, see page 23.

Clock ticking on Dorset school closure decision

Angry community vows to keep up their fight

CATHY OLLIFFE
Special to The Echo

Time is running out for those struggling to keep Dorset Elementary School open.

The committee created to evaluate the need for Dorset school has been working since last fall, gathering information and planning strategy. But its final report must be in the hands of Trillium Lakelands District School Board trustees by early April and committee members realize there's a lot to be done between then and now.

The pressure to get things moving was evident at a committee meeting Jan. 15. About 70 people braved treacherous, snow-covered roads to attend the meeting, held downstairs in the Dorset Recreation Centre. It was almost standing-room only as parents, friends and family packed the room.

Even local politicians made it a point to be there, including Sherborne, Stanhope et al Reeve Eleanor Harrison and several councillors. Among them was Councillor Kerry Locke who has been outspoken in her determination to keep the school open and a fixture at these meetings since the school board first named Dorset as a possibility for closure last June.

Information-gathering has been the thrust of the committee's first meetings but now that stage of the process has been completed and members are finalizing plans for a public meeting to be held at the Dorset Recreation Centre, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. All members of the public are invited to attend and those who wish to make formal presentations are asked to sign in when they arrive at the meeting. Those who wish to make comments or ask questions can take part in the question and answer part of the meeting.

Committee members will then use all of that information and public input to come up with recommendations and a report for the board of education. Then it's up to trustees to vote on the future of the Dorset school.

Two of those trustees are on the committee: Doris Monahan and Valerie Smith, who replaced Cheryl Murdoch as Haliburton County's trustee at the beginning of January. Another new face on the committee is Paul Dorion, the board's superintendent of schools. He replaced Dale Robinson last December. Other committee members include Dorset Principal Kevin Cutler, parent Sandy MacKay, parent Lori Parniak, community representative Virginia Anderson and Dorset teacher Annette Schumacher.

Most of the Jan. 15 meeting was taken up with planning and procedure but things got pretty emotional towards the end, especially when MacKay said, "the unstated strategy [of the

See **Board** page 6

Murray Fearrey chosen to head county council for record seventh time

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

For a record seventh time, Murray Fearrey has been chosen by his peers to be the warden of Haliburton County.

Fearrey, who has been the reeve of Dysart et al virtually non-stop since 1973 , was presented with the chain of office at a special county council meeting last Tuesday night.

It's the seventh time he's been given the honour of heading county government, having previously broken a record by serving three years in a row while most wardens only serve one.

"He has the experience, leadership skills and drive to move the county ahead," said Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney, whose nomination was unanimously supported by the six other county councillors.

The warden, Rigney said, "must be a person of vision and perseverance – vision to chart our course for this year and the perseverance to make sure we get there."

At a time when the other three municipalities in the county are coping with the implementation of amalgamation, many of the other county councillors also felt their timetables were already full enough. Dysart was the only municipality not touched by restructuring, already being the largest in the county.

Fearrey thanked Rigney for his kind words and said "I hope I can live up to those expectations."

He in turn praised the warden of the past year, Jeanne Anthon, for her tireless efforts and her success at accomplishing her many goals. "She did a great job."

See **Protecting** page 4

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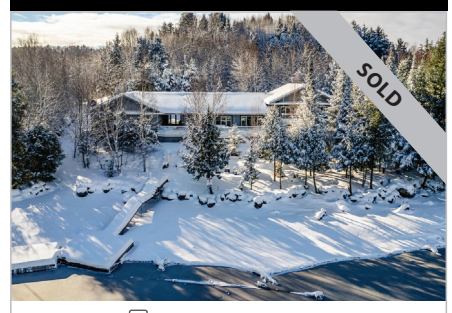

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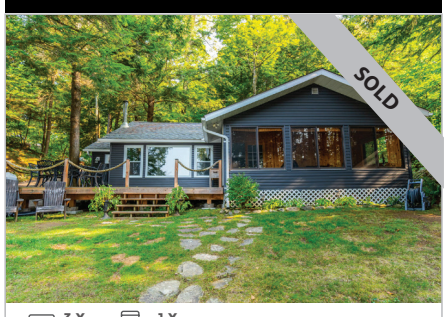

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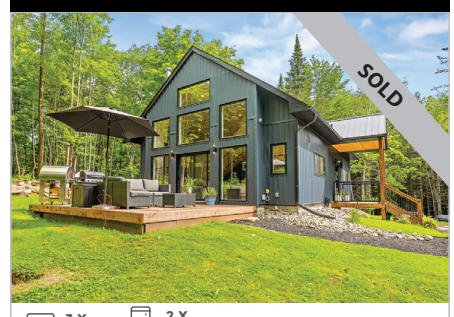

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